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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 003134

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/25/2017
TAGS: [KPKO](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [EG](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: EGYPT: "NO" TO UNAMID AVIATION SUPPORT AND
TRANSPORTATION ASSETS

REF: A. SECSTATE 147667

[1](#)B. CAIRO 2083

[1](#)C. CAIRO 2035

[1](#)D. CAIRO 1062

Classified by Minister Counselor for Economic and Political
Affairs William R. Stewart for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (SBU) On October 24, emboffs urged Assistant Minister of
Defense for Armament Major General Fouad Abd Al Halim and
Assistant Minister of Defense for Policy Major General
Mohamed Al Assar to reconsider providing aviation support and
transport assets for the UN/AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID),
per ref A demarche. MG Fouad responded that Egypt cannot
support UNAMID's aviation and transport needs at this time
because MoD assets are limited. The aviation request is
particularly problematic, he said, because of the complex
support and maintenance network required for helicopters.
The unstable security situation in Darfur also is a concern,
he continued, citing the particular vulnerability of
helicopters to hostile action.

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: MG Fouad's mention of security concerns, and
Foreign Minister Aboul Gheit's previous comments that "we
will not put our boys in harm's way" (ref D), highlight that
force protection is a prime Egyptian concern when offering
forces for UNAMID. Personnel and equipment security concerns
were behind Egypt rejecting of UN requests for armored
personnel carriers without Egyptian troops to operate them
(ref B) and Egyptian engineers without Egyptian infantry to
protect them (ref C).
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